

REMARKS

With entry of the present Amendment the application will contain claims 13-19. Claims 1-12 were previously cancelled in the Amendment of February 21, 2003. Claims 13-19 are under examination.

Claim Objections

The rejection in paragraph 3 of the last Office Action of claims 14-18, presumably under 35 U.S.C. § 112, is traversed but has been rendered moot by the present Amendment. No person skilled in the art believes that a carboxyl group contains a hydroxyl group. The claims have been accordingly amended. The courtesies extended to David R. Murphy by Examiner Umez-Eronini in June 2003 are acknowledged with appreciation. The following remarks incorporate the substance of that interview.

The Examiner indicated that making this change to the claims would overcome the objections to the claims. No prior art was discussed. No other item of rejection was discussed.

Specification

The objection to the specification in paragraph 2 of the last Office Action is traversed. One skilled in the art knows the

difference between carboxyl groups and hydroxyl groups. Since the claims have been herein amended, it is unnecessary to amend the specification. The claimed subject matter is clear. The applicants should not be burdened with the costs to amend the specification in this case for this minor matter when the specification, as written, is clearly sufficient to convey the invention to those skilled in the art.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The rejections in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the last Office Action are traversed but are believed to have been rendered moot by the present amendments to the claims. If the Examiner believes that further amendments are necessary, the courtesy of a telephone call is respectfully requested.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejection of claim 13 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by USP 5,783,489 (Kaufman) is traversed. One of the features of the process as defined in claim 13 is the use of intermediate alumina in addition to abrasive. As described at page 20, lines 5-13 of the English specification, intermediate alumina indicates alumina particles other than α -alumina particles, e.g., γ -alumina,

δ -alumina, θ -alumina, η -alumina, κ -alumina. By the use of intermediate alumina, the present invention exhibits the effects of an increase in the polishing rate and a reduction in the surface roughness of the polished object. These effects can be clarified by comparing Example No. II-1 with Comparative Example No. II-5 in Tables 2 and 3. Since γ -alumina is used as intermediate alumina instead of alumina sol, unexpectedly superior results are exhibited in polishing rate and surface roughness in Example No. II-1.

Further, effects of intermediate alumina can also be clarified by comparing Example No. III-1 with Comparative Example No. III-3 in Tables 4 and 5. Since intermediate alumina is further used in Example No. III-1, unexpectedly superior results are exhibited in polishing rate and surface roughness. Kaufman, to the contrary, provides only a general disclosure of metal oxide abrasives. Kaufman fails to teach the use of intermediate alumina together with abrasive as used in the present invention. Neither does Kaufman teach the effects thereof. Accordingly, claim 13 of this application cannot be anticipated by Kaufman and can never be obvious over Kaufman.

The rejection of claims 14-16 in paragraph 8 of the last Office Action as anticipated by Kaufman is traversed.

to teach this feature, pending claim 17 cannot be anticipated by Kaufman and can never be obvious over Kaufman.

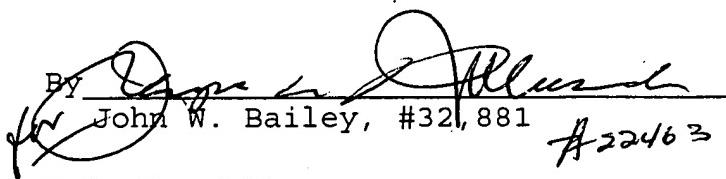
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the David R. Murphy, Reg. No. 22,751 in the Washington Metropolitan area at the telephone number list below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
John W. Bailey, #32,881 *A 22463*

JWB/DRM/enm
open

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000